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SEP
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GHOST RIDER
2099
YOU KILLED ME...
WHY?
DIRECT EDITION
00511
BUCKINGHAM 94

MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
THE STREETS ARE RUNNING RED IN SECTOR SEVEN TONIGHT, AWASH IN THE BLOOD OF TRANSVERSE CITY'S FINEST.
Willie Adams Live and Direct
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
FOR NEARLY AN HOUR NOW, A BATTLE HAS RAGED HERE BETWEEN CENTRAL SECURITY'S ELITE A.T.A.C. UNIT --
-- AND THE OUTLAW SOME HAVE DUBBED THE "GHOST RIDER."
Willie Adams Live and Direct
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
THIS MYSTERIOUS FIGURE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A CITYWIDE DRAGNET SINCE LATE YESTERDAY --
-- AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHICH LEFT SEVENTEEN HOSPITALIZED.
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
THE GHOST RIDER RESURFACED EARLIER TODAY IN A CLASH WITH YET ANOTHER GROTESQUE CREATURE --
-- DURING WHICH HIS AS-YET-UNNAMED OPPONENT WAS REPORTEDLY SLAIN.
Willie Adams Live and Direct
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
SINCE THEN, ALL ATTEMPTS TO SUBDUE THIS UNEARTHLY BERSERKER HAVE MET WITH FAILURE.
AND SO, FOR NOW --
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
-- THE REASONS BEHIND HIS APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION --
-- THE SOURCE OF HIS INHUMAN RAGE --
-- AND HIS WANTON DISREGARD FOR LAW AND ORDER --
Willie Adams Live and Direct

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RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

LEN KAMINSKI words | MARK BUCKINGHAM breakdowns | BUCKINGHAM/SUTHERLAND finishes
STARKINGS/COMICRAFT lettering | CHRISTIE SCHEELE/HEROIC AGE colors | EVAN SKOLNICK editor | BOBBIE CHASE group editor | TOM DEFALCO chief

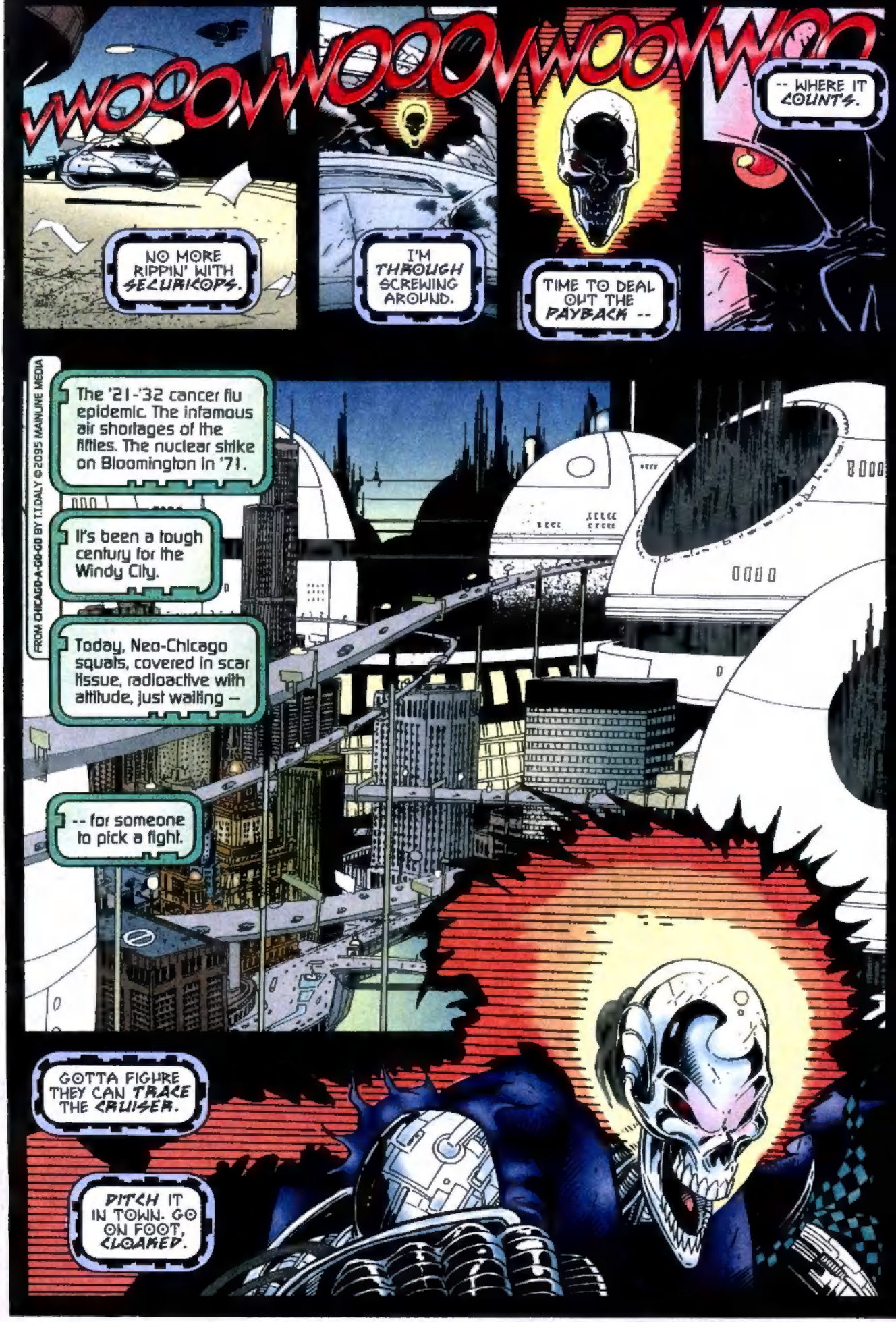
CODE RED! CODE RED!
OFFICER IN NEED OF --
SHRAKAKRAAM
HUNT! COOPER!
FALL BACK!
NO TIME IT'S GONNA --
FIRE IN THE HOLE!
SHOOMPH
SON OF A GLITCH!
MEDIC!
WE'RE FRITOS, MAN...
REGROUP! REGROUP!

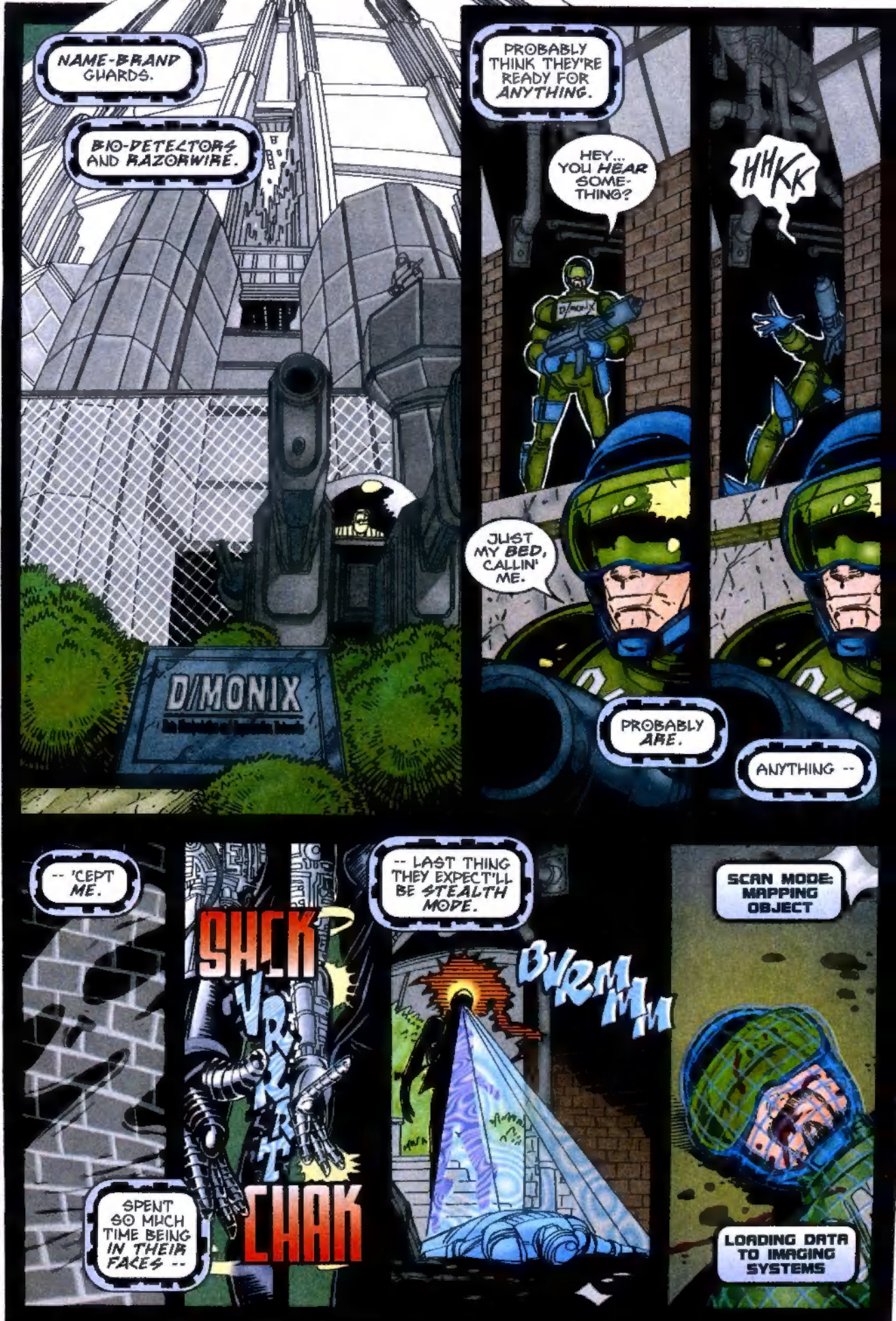
PUSBAGS--
KTHRRRM
--THIS IS FOR WAREWOLF.
-- REIN-FORCEMENTS NOW, DO YOU --
I'M HIT OHGAAAAWD
ON FIRE!
REGROUP, JAMMIT!
WE'RE TOAST...
RRRRKRENCH
AAUGHK
YOU AND THE BIZ SUITS WHO RUN THIS TOWN --

-- ARE ALL GOING TO BURN!
ZZRSHAK
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, CHROME JOB!
YEAH?
SKLUTCH
WATCH ME.
ZZRSHAK
SKCHHH

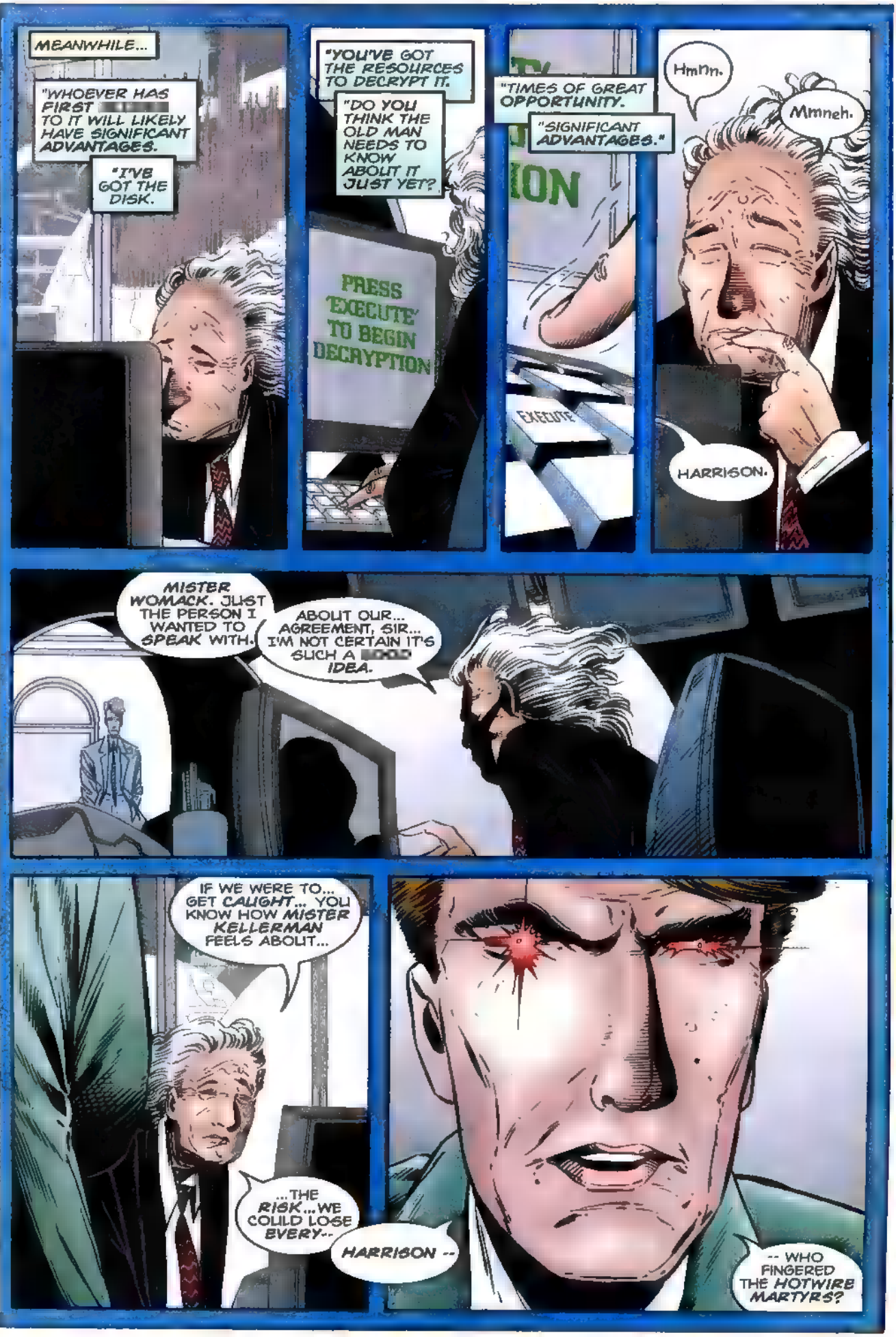
THAT'S IT, BLACK-BOOTS.
GAME OVER!
IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MAY BE TO BELIEVE --
-- THIS LONE ASSAILANT HAS SINGLE-HANDEDLY LAID WASTE TO THE CITY'S BEST-EQUIPPED TEAM OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.
WHILE CGG REPORTS THAT MASSIVE REINFORCEMENTS ARE ALREADY EN ROUTE TO THE SCENE --
-- THE VICTORY, AS OF THIS MOMENT, CLEARLY BELONGS TO THE GHOST RIDER.
NO PLEASE
WRAP THAT, MURRAY. GO TO CAMERA TWO AND TRACK ME.
I'M GOING TO TRY AND MOVE IN CLOSER...
FRSKRRETCH
WHANK
WAIT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SOME ANSWERS.
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?
LOOK AROUND, JERKWEED.
CHECK OUT WHAT THE BIZ SUITS'VE DONE TO THIS WORLD.
TRY ASKING A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.
ASK THE CORPORATIONS HOW THEY SNUFF ANYBODY WHO GETS BETWEEN THEM AND A QUICK PROFIT.
ASK THE SECURICOPS ABOUT THEIR DAILY UNDER-CLASS KILL QUOTAS.
ASK JOE AVERAGE WHY HE LET 'EM RAPE EVERYTHING DECENT A LONG TIME AGO.
AND YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT ME --
-- ASK D/MONIX.
BIP
HOLY SHOCK!
PULL WILLIS'S FEED! NOW!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THANK GOD FOR TIME-DELAY UPLINK.


VWOOOVWOOOVWOOVWOO
NO MORE RIPPIN' WITH SECURICOPS.
I'M THROUGH SCREWING AROUND.
TIME TO DEAL OUT THE PAYBACK --
-- WHERE IT COUNTS.
FROM CHICAGO-A-GO-GO BY T.TDALY ©2095 MAINLINE MEDIA
The '21-'32 cancer flu epidemic. The infamous air shortages of the fifties. The nuclear strike on Bloomington in '71.
It's been a tough century for the Windy City.
Today, Neo-Chicago squats, covered in scar tissue, radioactive with attitude, just waiting --
-- for someone to pick a fight.
GOTTA FIGURE THEY CAN TRACE THE CRUISER.
DITCH IT IN TOWN. GO ON FOOT, CLOAKED.


NAME-BRAND GUARDS.
BIO-DETECTORS AND RAZORWIRE.
D/MONIX
PROBABLY THINK THEY'RE READY FOR ANYTHING.
HEY... YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
HHKK
JUST MY BED, CALLIN' ME.
PROBABLY ARE.
ANYTHING --
-- 'CEPT ME.
SHCK VRRRT CHAK
SPENT SO MUCH TIME BEING IN THEIR FACES --
-- LAST THING THEY EXPECT'LL BE STEALTH MODE.
BVRMMM
SCAN MODE: MAPPING OBJECT
LOADING DATA TO IMAGING SYSTEMS

EASIEST SYSTEM HACK IN THE WORLD.
MONIX
TROJAN HORSE.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
BACK IN A SEC.
362
GOTTA TAKE A LEAK.
BITHEADS.
ELEVATORS
EVENING, LAIDLAW.
EVENING... SIR.
AREN'T YOU POSTED TO GATE DUTY TONIGHT?
NOT ANYMORE.
I GOT... SPECIAL DUTY.


MEANWHILE...
"WHOEVER HAS FIRST [redacted] TO IT WILL LIKELY HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES.
"I'VE GOT THE DISK.
"YOU'VE GOT THE RESOURCES TO DECRYPT IT.
"DO YOU THINK THE OLD MAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT IT JUST YET?
PRESS 'EXECUTE' TO BEGIN DECRYPTION
"TIMES OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY.
"SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES."
EXECUTE
Hmnn.
Mmneh.
HARRISON.
MISTER WOMACK. JUST THE PERSON I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH.
ABOUT OUR... AGREEMENT, SIR... I'M NOT CERTAIN IT'S SUCH A [redacted] IDEA.
IF WE WERE TO... GET CAUGHT... YOU KNOW HOW MISTER KELLERMAN FEELS ABOUT...
...THE RISK... WE COULD LOSE EVERY--
HARRISON --
-- WHO FINGERED THE HOTWIRE MARTYRS?

WHY I DID, SIR, YOU KNOW THAT.
PROVIDED YOU WITH A FULL REPORT, OUTLINING IN DETAIL --
YOU SHOCKING PUSBAG! I KNEW IT HAD TO BE YOU!
I JUST DIDN'T WANNA BELIEVE IT --
-- DIDN'T THINK EVEN YOU WERE LOW ENOUGH --
-- YOU RATBITING HYPOCRITE!
SIR, ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
THIS IS NOT AT ALL LIKE YOU...
YEAH?
FUNNY ABOUT THAT.
YOU RECOGNIZE ME NOW --
-- DAD?

KENSHIRO ?
IT CAN'T BE... YOU'RE...
...DEAD...
YEAH, THANKS TO YOU!
BUT, I SAW YOUR BODY, IT'S --
THAT WAS JUST THE MEAT THAT GREW FROM YOUR RANCID SEED.
I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
THIS BODY DOESN'T HAVE THE STINK OF YOUR DNA ON IT.
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANNA KNOW HOW YOU LIVE WITH YOURSELF!
YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A COMMON GUTTER CRIMINAL.
AND IT WAS MY JOB TO GET THAT DATA BA--
YOUR JUDO!!
I WAS YOUR SON!

AND YOU SOLD ME OUT!
I DID WHAT ANY LAW-ABIDING CORPORATE EMPLOYEE WOULD'VE DONE.
I HAD A DUTY TO SOCIETY.
SCREW YOUR SOCIETY!
IT'S NOTHING BUT A CON GAME --
-- RIGGED SO YOU AND THE REST OF THE SUITS --
-- CAN KEEP MAKING A PROFIT!
OH, GOD...
THE ONLY DUTY ANYONE WITH EVEN A SHRED OF HUMANITY LEFT HAS --
-- IS TO TEAR IT
DOWN!
THA KRAW

NO!
THE ARCHIVE --!
YOWCH!
CKRIP
ZZOP
WHAT ARCHIVE ?
THE ARCHIVE YOU! --
-- STOLE.
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
THAT HRRK TRAMP GIRLFRIEND... OF YOURS.
YOU'VE GOT KYLIE?
WHERE?
DOWN-STAIRS...
HAKK
NEURO-INTERRO-GATION..
WHAT ABOUT MY BIKE? SECURICOPS JUST HAND THAT OVER TO YOU, TOO?
REVERSE...
ENGINEERING...

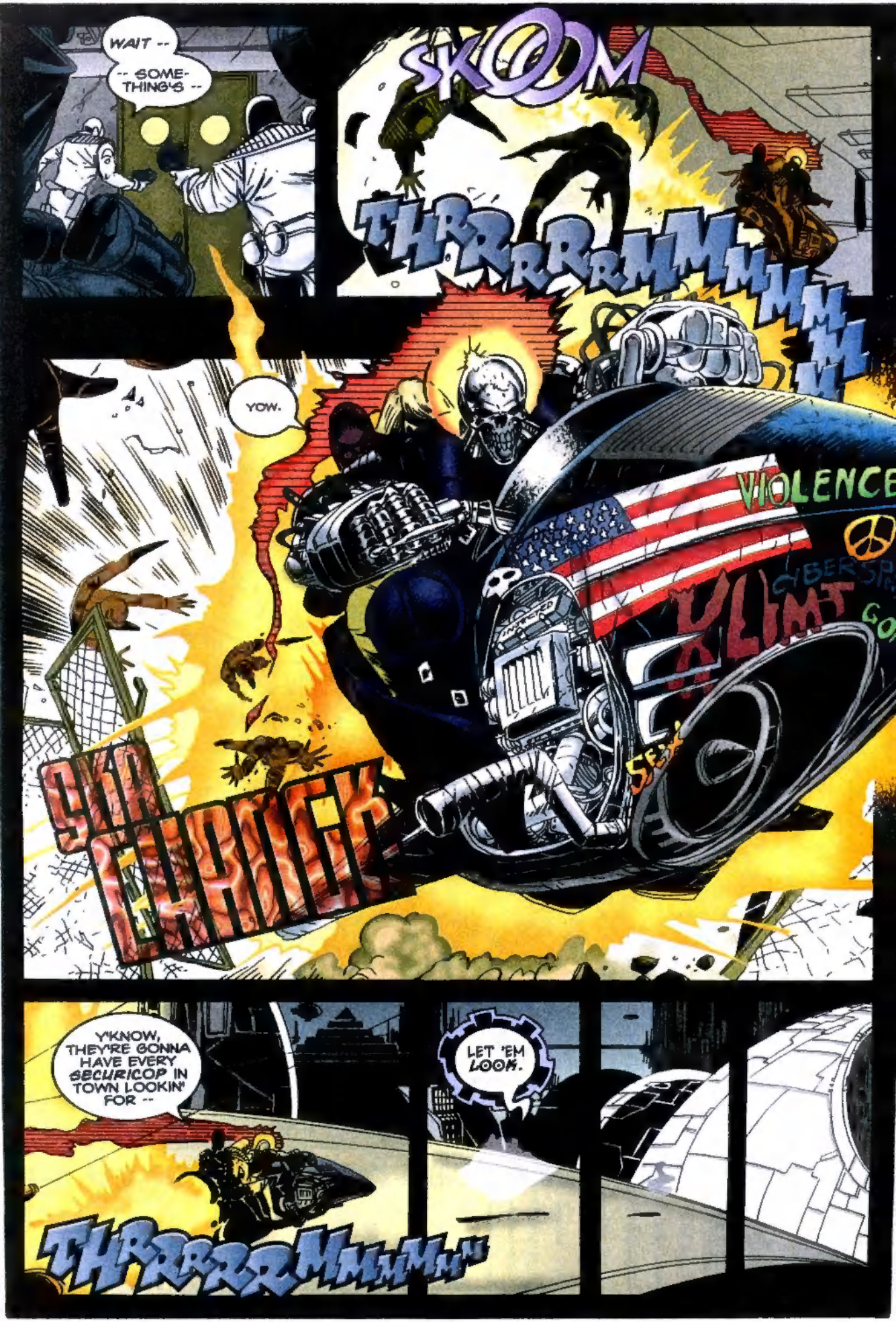
SNICK
ALL THIS FOR SOME STUPID BIZ FILES.
I STILL DUNNO WHAT'S IN 'EM --
-- BUT ANYTHING YOU WANT SO BAD'S GOT TO BE EVIL.
SKRANTCH
LISTEN UP, OLD MAN.
I'M GONNA WRECK YOUR WORLD.
I'M GONNA TAKE ALL THE LIES YOU AND THE REST OF THE BIZ SUITS EVER CAME UP WITH, AND RAM THEM DOWN YOUR STINKING THROATS.
I'M GONNA BURN THIS TRAVESTY YOU CALL A CIVILIZATION DOWN TO THE SHOCKING BEDROCK.
AND WHEN I'M DONE --
-- I'M GOING TO COME BACK --
-:AHUH HUH:-
-- AND FINISH YOU.
HOW...
-:AHUH HUH:-
...AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS?

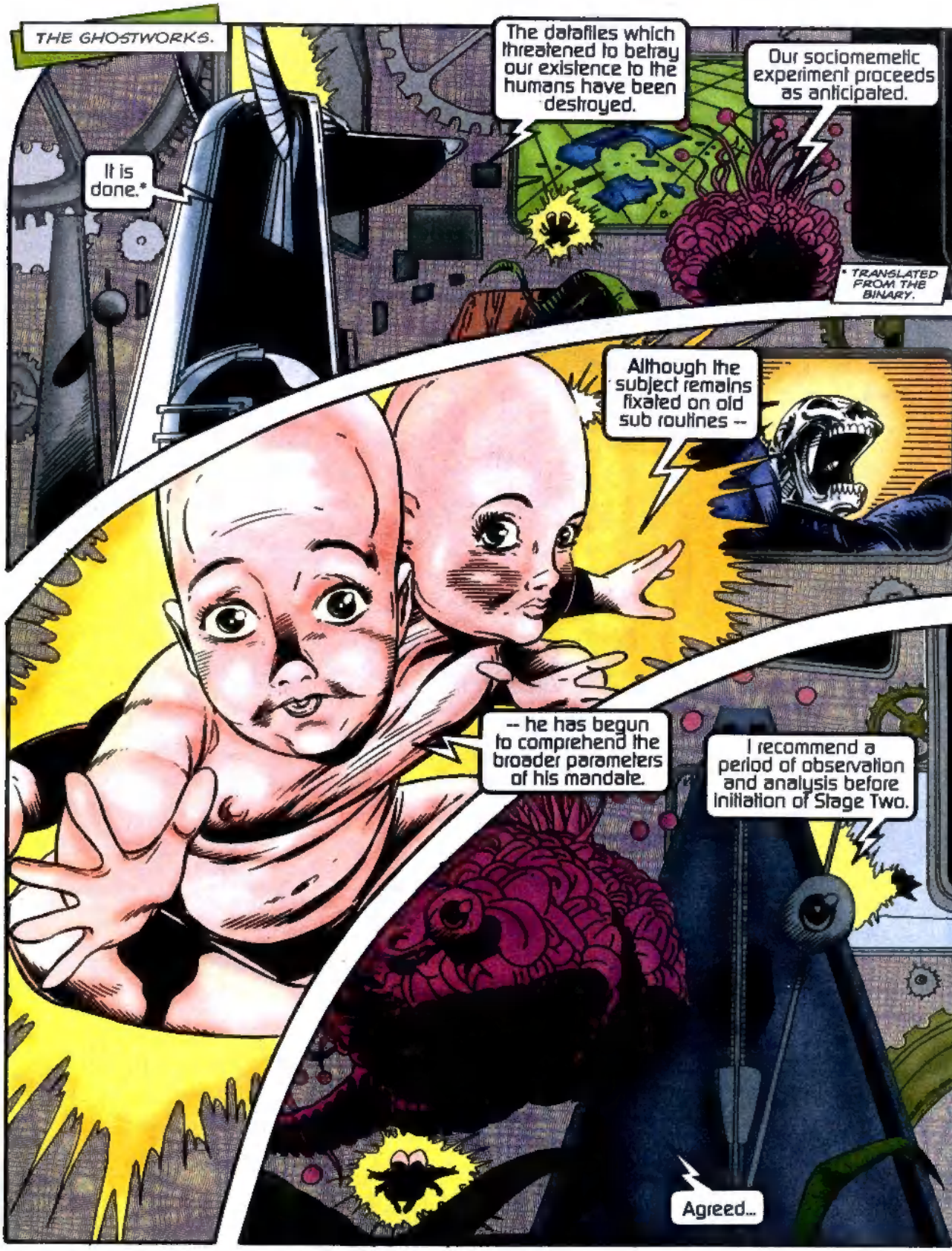
REVERSE ENGINEERING.
SIR, I'M GETTING A VERY STRANGE READING ON --
K'THRMM
LOOK OUT, IT'S --
KLIMT
SKTHAAM
OH, GLITCH.
JUNK STEALTH MODE.
I WANT THEM TO KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.

URANT
URANT
URANT
OH, NOW WHAT?!
KRATHAAM
ZERO
AGHK
GET AWAY FROM HER!
MYLIE
SKRAPT

ZERO
HEY!
GET ME OUTTA HERE, TOO!
WHO'RE YOU?
JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF SOCIETY, MAN.
YEAH? WHY SHOULD I? ...
OH, MAN.
OH, GOD.
IT'S...
IT'S ME.
THE MEATWARE.
I WONDER...IF I TAKE IT WITH ME...IF THERE'S ANY WAY I COULD...
REBOOT... MYSELF...?

NO.
THAT'S NOT ME.
THAT'S JUST A ROTTING CARCASS.
AND LIKE I SAID BEFORE --
-- I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
ZZRSHAK
NO GOING BACK.
SHRT KRRKKLL SPOOT
DURING WHAT I AM JUST YET, BUT WHATEVER IT IS --
-- THE WORLD BETTER START GETTING USED TO IT.
C'MON.
WE'RE GETTING OUTTA HERE.
ALL OF US.


WAIT --
-- SOME-THING'S --
SKOOM
THRRRRRMMMMMM
YOW.
VIOLENCE
KLIMT
SKA CHARGE
Y'KNOW, THEY'RE GONNA HAVE EVERY SECURICOP IN TOWN LOOKIN' FOR --
LET 'EM LOOK.
THRRRRRMMMMM


THE GHOSTWORKS.
It is done.*
The datafiles which threatened to betray our existence to the humans have been destroyed.
Our sociomemetic experiment proceeds as anticipated.
* TRANSLATED FROM THE BINARY.
Although the subject remains fixated on old sub routines --
-- he has begun to comprehend the broader parameters of his mandate.
I recommend a period of observation and analysis before initiation of Stage Two.
Agreed...

NEUROPOLITIQUE

GHOST RIDER 2099

EVAN SKOLNICK
Editor
BOBBIE CHASE
Group Editor

Write to: GHOST RIDER 2099, c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016

All correspondence must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information at your request.

STRAIGHT FROM EVAN

Okay, okay, I know last issue I told you that by this month we'd have a real letters page with a real title and real letters. Things have been a bit hectic around here lately, however, so the "real letters page title" will have to wait one more issue. However, here are a few real letters...and next month, to make up for my unforgivable lying, we'll do a double-sized letters page!

I promise...no, really!

Dear Evan,

GHOST RIDER 2099 #1 is no average comic. It is everything a premiere issue should be but rarely is, reminding me of the incomparable spring of 1968, when six mind-bagglers hit the stands in rapid-fire succession.

This is no Ghost Rider rehash, but a highly original and innovative variation of a familiar theme. Chris Bachalo, whose brusque strokes would be out of place in, say, CAPTAIN AMERICA or FANTASTIC FOUR, seems appropriate for the harsh world of 2099. And Len Kaminski, as usual, continues his awe-inspiring habit of tossing out ideas like coins to the multitudes. Of particular interest is his conjecture on the possible nature of artificial intelligence on page 20. Here the computer confers upon Zero Cochrane "weapons and abilities far in advance of technologies conceived by humans", a remarkable feat since the computer itself owes its existence to those same technologies. I hope this intriguing capability will be dealt with in future issues. It is simply too good to toss and forget.

Peter Girvan
23 Rosewood Court
Highland Mills, NY 10930

A very good point, Peter...what does it say about a society when its computers are smarter than its programmers?

Dear Mighty Marveloid Cyber-Skulls,

GHOST RIDER 2099 is jagged! I'm a little bit surprised that he's a robot, but he's cool nonetheless. I really like his attitude, as it seems to fit in perfect with the story. I just have a few questions, though:

1) Are we going to be seeing any Spirits of Vengeance?

2) Are you going to do any other 2099 crossovers?

3) What other weapons does Ghost Rider have?

Well, until Ghost Rider takes up Go Fish and Old Maid, make mine Marvel.

Brian Colleran
50 Weed Hill Avenue
Stamford, CT 06907

Glad you're enjoying GR2099, Brian — and you vid the lingo, too! Here are your answers:

1) Spirits, probably not. Cyber-spirits, much more likely.

2) Crossovers as in "huge storylines stretching across multiple titles"? No. But crossovers as in "guest appearances"? Read on...

3) Well, let's see...so far we've seen GR's electrosaw, his morphable left hand/claw, and his optic lasers, not to mention his solidogram stealth and camouflage fields. Is there more? Ahh, now that would be telling...

Dear Ghost Crew,

I'm not a Ghost Rider fan, but I'm a big 2099 fan. Hearing that there was going to be a new 2099 title was great; hearing that it was Ghost Rider wasn't so great. But I decided to check it out anyway. I mean, who knows, maybe it'll be okay.

Well, let me tell you, it was a lot better than okay. The art blew my mind and the story was even better. The special appearance by David Letterman and quote by Johnny Rotten made it perfect. An all-around great comic book. I wish this guy had been around during the "Fall of the Hammer" story. But anyway, being the curious little monkey that I am, I have a few questions:

1) Is this guy ever going to fight or team up with other 2099 characters? I'm literally dying to see a Spidey/Ghost Rider crossover.

2) Is Ghost Rider always a robot? Where does he hang out looking like that? If you say the mall, you die.

3) Where the @%*# is DAREDEVIL 2099? Just think about it for a few.

That's it for now, so until Gambit and Archangel join the Village People (and I'd love to see Warren as the construction worker), make mine Marvel.

Mike "G-Monkey" Joyner
622 West McNair Street
Chandler, AZ 85224

Great to know we're doing "better than okay", Mike. Let's take a crack at those questions of yours...

1) Yes — so you can stop dying now. Or, more specifically, you can stop dying in two months.

2) By now you know that while Ghost Rider is indeed always a robot, he can appear to be pretty much anybody he can scan into his camouflage system's memory. Pretty cool, huh?

3) We're thinking.

To the Writers of GHOST RIDER 2099,

Out of all the 2099 titles I've seen, this one's the crème de la crème! Whereas other futuristic conversions have been impressive (DOOM) to downright silly (Why is the Hulk a lizard?), Ghost Rider's was beautiful. Marvel does it again. I must offer my compliments to the entire creative team (and I loved that last page!).

It's also interesting how Zero Cochrane is not a Midnight Son, but a cybernetic warrior totally independent from that world. Still, how do we know that this can't be a futuristic version of Dan Ketch? It was revealed in DOOM 2099 #13 that magic adapts to the culture of that era. Could this yet be a Spirit of Vengeance?

Speaking of Doom, I hope we can expect to see him appear in these pages soon, since both characters are related to the cybernet. I would also suggest appearances by the Hulk as well as Lachryma (from 2099 UNLIMITED #4). It's too soon for a Spider-Man appearance, since he doesn't have as strong a sense of morality as the original. That's what made the first meeting between the modern Spider-Man and GR so interesting.

Well, until Ghost Rider gets a toupee, make mine 2099!

Adam Frey
480 Springfield Drive
Southampton, PA 18966

A futuristic version of Dan Ketch? No. No. No.

And too soon for a Spidey guest-shot? How long would you say we should wait, Adam? Hmm...maybe TWO MONTHS or so? (Subtle, ain't we?)

Dear GHOST RIDER 2099,

I think your magazine is great. I like to see Ghost Rider in the year 2099.

There is something that is bugging me a little: is he a good guy or a bad guy?

David Baird
1642 Mallard Circle
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Well, David, that's the thing...when the people who pretend they're "good guys" are actually "bad guys", what does that make somebody who goes around killing them? Sigh...there are no easy answers...

Dear Mr. Skolnick,

I like to think I keep an open, forgiving mind, but most of the comics I take home and re-re-re-read are tintless — but rarely colorless! — black-and-whites. Very few color-glut comics survive my "thumb-test" these days, and most of those go into a garbage bag I return to my local comic shop periodically as un-re-readable. Y'see, I'm into Different rather than Same — which means I can't remember the last Marvel product (except Epic!) I even dragged home, let alone kept.

What really excites me is the feeling that everyone on a comic book — from the writer to the artists to the colorists to the letterer to the editor holding the whole thing together — were in on some unspoken conspiracy to make everyone else on the team look good.

That's what I found in GHOST RIDER 2099.

Troy Queen over at Underworld Comics twisted my arm, while mumbling "cyberpunk, cyberpunk", but it was Bachalo's pictures and Buckingham's details that extorted the buck-fifty from me. And it was Kaminski's in-joke-clotted prose ("my man Sandoz"!!!) that made me want to go right back to page one, and take my time the second pass. I think it was page 15 when I fell in love, and the panel borders on 18-21 sealed it totally.

Y'see, I'll be 62 this August, but I've noticed that your mind never outgrows its need for GOOD comics. That's why I often finger through — but rarely buy — color-glut comics. But I will stick with yours as long as it stays on this level of achievement. As I said to Shelly Roeberg of your Distinguished Competition:

"After all those comics I had read and thrown away through the '40s, after all those E.C. titles I studied in the '50s, just being Super doesn't show me much, and just being gaudy doesn't, either. I don't read many color-glut comics these days because, at long last, I think I'm ready to be treated as an adult."

Thank you and the crew for doing just that.

Larry Stark
117B Thorndike Street
Brookline, MA 02146

Thank you, Larry, for a truly rare and special letter. Too many people do somehow manage to convince themselves they've "outgrown" comic books...it's great to hear that it doesn't have to happen that way.

ATTENTION CYBERJOCKS!

GHOST RIDER 2099 writer LEN KAMINSKI is waiting in cyberspace for your electronic mail! Deposit your digital messages for him, and he'll do his best to respond to you personally! Your E-mail may also show up here, in the GR2099 letters page!

LEN can be reached on COMPUSERVE at I.D. # 74130, 3464

See you in C-space!